



Westmorland

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SERVING THE WESTMORLAND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY SINCE 1941

Santa Coming to Westmorland!

Santa and his elves will be visiting youngsters in Westmorland the evening of December 14th. He'll have treats and goodies to share and would love for you to help him make his list and check it twice. Santa might need some help to find his way around the neighborhood, so please watch for emails asking for helpers. Let's welcome the big guy and his reindeer in Westmorland style!

Santa Visits: A Christmas Tradition Starts in Westmorland

Submitted by Jan Murphy

We have many traditions in Westmorland, and one of them is our Santa visits.

Our neighborhood association was formed in April 1941, and one of the founding committees of this new association was the Social Committee.



Santa and the Porter twins from the 1963 Westmorland Courier

The first event planned by the Social Committee was the July 4 picnic. Shortly after that event, the Social Committee chairs, Frank and Marion Smyth, moved away from Westmorland and Ray Heibel became the chairman. The second event organized by the Social Committee was the first Westmorland dance-and there were a lot of dances over the years-which took place on December 17, 1941 in the Walnut Room of the Park Hotel on the Capital Square. The event was announced in the December 1941 newsletter (called The Dope), along with this brief note about another event: *"A CHRISTMAS SURPRISE for all the children in Westmorland will be given from the profits of the dance."*

Although there was no mention of the Christmas dance in the 1942 December Courier, there was this note in the December 1943 newsletter (now called The Westmorland Courier or just The Courier): *"SANTA CLAUS: Early on Christmas Eve Santa Claus will visit all the homes where there are small children. Mrs. Ray Heibel is in charge of arrangements for this event. The committee plans to call all the homes listed in the directory sometime before December 20..."*

The next mention of a Santa visit was in the November 1944 newsletter: *"Romie Miller got a letter from Santa Claus the other day stating that it may be impossible for him to make his house to house calls on Christmas Eve this year. However, he did say that if the latter was not possible that he could perhaps arrange to be at a certain place... at which time he will be on hand to have all the Westmorland kiddies come to see and talk to him."*

So no visits that year-was it gas rationing? There was no follow up in the January 1945 newsletter either.

In December 1945, the newsletter changed from being produced using a mimeograph to being professionally typeset. Something else changed too:

"Santa Claus will visit every Westmorland child whose parent indicated their wish to have him come on Sunday evening, December 23. Santa Claus' visits have been a welcome feature of former Christmas celebrations in our community. We are glad the custom is being reinstated."

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Volume LXX
Issue 6

November 2011

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Westmorland has a neighborhood-only e-mail listserv for occasional messages. To join, send a blank email to:
Westmorland_News-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

SAVE THE DATE

November 30
Ice Rink
Maintenance
Meeting

December 14
Santa Visits
Westmorland

January 22, 2012
Winter Play Date

February 10, 2012
Wine and Cheese
Party

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President's Message

The beautiful fall weather we are having reminds me how much I enjoy living in Westmorland. I love seeing friendly faces as I watch my son play at the park. We love the short walk to the library, local ice cream shop and (now) family pizza place.

With the new season comes a whole host of activities in the neighborhood. First, up we had the annual golf outing on September 17. The weather was great, there were plenty of prizes and a good time was had by all. If you haven't had a chance to play in the golf outing yet, you should consider doing so next year. It is always a fun event and golfers of all skills are welcome. Dave Blouin did another terrific job of organizing and running the event.

Next, we had the annual Children's Halloween Parade and Party. This year's party was set for Sunday October 30. Folks arrived at the park at 3:45 pm. The Parade started at 4 pm, traveled to Queen of Peace and the Party began when the Parade arrived. This year's entertainment was provided by the Gomers who will be backed up our kids from some Kiddyoke. This was a great event. Thanks to Claire Gervais for organizing.

Still to come, our ice committee will be meeting to discuss laying down and maintaining ice at both the hockey and recreational rinks in the park. This meeting will be November 30 and offer Luigi's pizza! Please see updates on our neighborhood listserv. You can find a link to join the listserv on the neighborhood website www.westmorland-neighborhood.net. In addition to information about the ice committee, the listserv provides neighbor announcements, information on upcoming events, and gives neighbors a way to communicate electronically.

And, the activities don't stop in the fall. This winter Santa will again be visiting Westmorland on December 14. Neighbors will have a chance to get together and enjoy winter fun at our annual Winter Play Date on January 22. And, we will again be hosting our annual Wine and Cheese Party. This year's party will be on February 10 from 7-9 pm in the Queen of Peace Gathering Space. Neighbors who attend are asked to contribute \$ 10.

Finally, I wanted to remind everyone that it is never too late to return your membership forms and dues. The annual membership drive is our biggest fundraiser. We use the funds raised to support all the great neighborhood activities in Westmorland.

As always, I am happy to hear from our neighbors on any concerns they may have. My contact information is always available on the back of the Courier.

Halloween Parade and Party was Spooktacular

Submitted by Claire Gervais

Despite the slightly bone chilling weather, the Halloween paraders stomped up Holly with the Westmorland Walking Band leading the way. Superheros reined at this year's Halloween fest. Batman and Spiderman sang their respective theme songs while the Gomer's enthusiastically backed them and oodles of other kids during the Kiddyoke show. (Who knew there were so many versions of Itsy Bitsy Spider?)

Thanks go out to Julie Verban and the band for an eery performance, Dave Blouin, Jill Friedow and Brian Tennant for set up and clean up, Wil Blouin for taking pictures, and to all the treat providers. Also, a big thanks to Ellen Franzone who has graciously offered to organize the party next year!



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Continued from page 1...

former Christmas celebrations in our community. We are glad the custom is being reinstated."

The January 1946 newsletter reported that 104 Westmorland homes and 198 children were given boxes of candy by three visiting Santas. There was no mention of a Santa visit in 1946 or in the January 1947 newsletter.

The December 1947 newsletter used green text throughout, starting a trend for many future December newsletters, along with this piece of information: *"Santa's helpers have been busy early and arranged an early visit to the Westmorland children in their homes on Sunday night, December 21st."*



Information in the January 1948 newsletter said that with Mrs. Gerald Lawton organized the event, and that Santa had delivered 270 boxes of candy. The December 1948 newsletter included green text and a Santa graphic, which was used for the next three seasons.

The Santa follow up article in the January 1949 newsletter proclaimed: *"Every year 'Operation Santa Claus' gets bigger and better, and this year...it was very successful."*

With Horace and Marian Wilkie organizing five Santas, approximately 400 of children met Santa and got boxes of candy.

The January 1951 Santa follow-up report said that Herman Kneubuehl organized seven Santas to distribute 545 Christmas candy to "delighted" children in Westmorland.

"Special News from Santa" heralded the December 1951 newsletter: *"Dear Children, there are so many of you in Westmorland that I just can visit each of your homes before Christmas and still get the toys made and packed. So will you please come to see me? I'll be at Midvale school on Saturday, December 22, from 3 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Please come, I'll be looking for you. Love, Santa Claus."*

This event was the start of a four-year, annual Christmas party for children aged eight and under. The January follow-up article to the first party said that 500 children attended the Christmas party, and that each child



received a chocolate Santa Claus, a candy cane, and a balloon (donated by Oscar Meyer).

"Shine Up Your Halos, Kids Use a Blue Porch Light-St. Nick Is Coming On a Thursday Night!" proclaimed the banner in the December 1955 issue. The article went on to say that "Kris Kringle" would be visiting kids' houses, and that: *"Since there are about 650 youngsters in the 58 blocks of the area...Santa has requested that all homes with children in the age group have a blue porch light on that night to speed him on his way. There will be no party at the school this year as the merry old gentleman wanted to see each of you personally."*

The January 1956 follow-up article noted that there were 645 candy-filled stockings distributed. The Santa visits became a tradition from this point on, though in 1959 the blue porch light gave way to a porch light of any kind, the Santa graphic gave way to a Santa cutout on the board president's lawn, and in 1960, and only in 1960, Santa is shown behind the wheel of a car with fins.



Over the years, the Santa graphics appeared and disappeared in the newsletter, eventually being replaced by photographs featuring decorated Westmorland homes, pictures of stained glass windows, pictures of church decorations, and pictures of kids with a smiling Santa in the shot.

Over the years, the visiting Santa tradition has also changed, disappearing briefly, morphing into a party, and then coming back to the 1943 start of the Westmorland tradition: a tradition that we still look forward to every year.

For full article, please visit westmorland-neighborhood.net

HOMES WANTED

The History Committee is looking for home owners that would be willing to open up their Cape Cod or Colonial style homes as part of the Vernacular Architectural Forum (VAF) tour of Westmorland homes in 2012. Approximately 250-300 members of the VAF will be attending their semi-annual conference in Madison and tour various neighborhoods in Madison and area communities during the week of June 4th . The tour of Westmorland homes will be held on Friday, June 8, 2012 from approximately 1:00 p. m. until 3:30 p.m. You can learn more about the VAF at their web site: <http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org> .

Criteria for considering a home for the tour include the following factors:

- 1) Cape Cod or Colonial design style,
- 2) Home built during the period from the 1930s through the 1950s,
- 3) Original home exterior dimensions with no major side or rear additions,
- 4) Original wood siding still exposed (no vinyl or aluminum siding added),
- 5) Condition of landscaping.

Original floor plans for the home or information about the original owner or home builder would be appreciated.

Contact Tom Martinelli from the History Committee, 608-233-2850 or tmartinelli@tds.net with any questions about the VAF, the tour, or to nominate your home by December 15th.



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Ice Volunteers Warm-up Meeting

New volunteers, grizzled veterans and curious onlookers are all invited to the Westmorland Park shelter on Wed., Nov. 30 from 6:30-8 PM for this year's organizing meeting for the ice rink maintenance program. This is the meeting for you if you're interested in learning more about how we make the best outdoor skating ice in town plus we'll have pizza from Luigi's.

We need more help with both setting up and building the ice before skating begins and regular maintenance once the rinks are open. Our goal is to have both rinks open by the time of the school winter break on Dec. 24 at the latest. During the setup phase, we'll be working both days and nights depending on the weather. Last year, we started on Dec. 6 but we need consistent cold temps to start making ice. During the season we start working almost every night around 8:30 PM for an hour or so.

We keep a regular email list for ice updates; send your email to Tim or Dave below. You can also sign up to help on any date online at: http://www.my.calendars.net/westmorland_ice/

Many neighbors have been enjoying the high quality ice over the last 2 seasons. If you value the ice, please consider joining in. We welcome any groups of volunteers who'd like to work together (youth groups, teams, scouts, etc). Please come to the rinks and help out - it's easy work and fun, plus you get to meet your neighbors!

For questions or to volunteer, contact Dave at 233-8455 or burroak15@charter.net or Tim Bohm at 238-9985 or tdbohm@wisc.edu.

OPEN HOUSE

Refreshments – In-Store Specials

Saturday, December 10, 2011, 10 – 5

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photo: Zane Williams

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Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 am

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Learning Hour for children and adults

Sundays—9:15 am (September—May)

One Small Child Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18—9:15 & 10:30 am

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve 3:00, 5:00, 8:00 pm

Christmas Day—10:00 am

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Sequoia Library Events

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DONUTS WITH DAD

Saturday November 26th @ 10 am

Saturday morning fun with stories, movies and snacks, especially for dads and their kids. *Moms welcome, too. No registration.

FRIEND OF SEQUOYA LIBRARY BOOK SALES

The First Saturday of Each Month

9am-4pm (2pm Bag Sale on Selected Items)

All sales are at the Friends Shop in the Westgate Mall, next to TJ MAXX. Got some books you would like to donate? Bring them in to the library anytime!

HAUNTED WISCONSIN

Tuesday November 8th @ 7:00 PM

Author Michael Norman will talk about his latest edition of the spine-tingling book of haunted happenings around our state.

GREAT GIFT BOOKS OF 2011

Thursday Nov 17 @ 7pm

Looking for some great children's books to give as presents for birthdays or the approaching holiday season? We'll tell you about our favorite titles of 2011, along with some classics that have stood the test of time and are sure to please even the pickiest kids.

AN EVENING WITH LOCAL AUTHOR SUSANNA DANIELS

Tuesday December 13th @ 7pm

Madison writer Susanna Daniel will be joining us to talk about her book *Stiltsville*. Daniel weaves the beauty, violence, and humanity of the city of Miami's coming-of-age with an enduring story of a marriage's beginning, maturity, and heartbreaking demise. Released in August 2010, this book won the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Award and many other accolades most recently being included on Oprah.com's 2011 summer reading list. Read the book and come meet the author!

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See page 14 for details on Independent Lens Film Series at Sequoia!

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PUBLIC SIDEWALKS

To make public sidewalks safe for pedestrians, the owner or occupant of property immediately adjacent to a public sidewalk is responsible for the removal of any snow or ice that accumulates on the sidewalk. Residents are required to clear snow from their sidewalk by noon of the day after the snow stopped. And remember, snow plows might create a blockage even after your drive has been cleaned.

In the event that removal of ice is impossible, the property owner or occupant is required to use sand, salt or other suitable substance to prevent the ice from being dangerous. This should be done by noon of the day after the snow/ice stopped.

How much of my sidewalk do I have to clear?

The Ordinance requires the property owner to clear the entire width of the sidewalk, from edge to edge.

•What the ordinance says: M.G.O. 10.28

You are as responsible for clearing ice on your sidewalk as clearing snow. Ice can be more dangerous and intimidating than snow.

- The sooner and more completely you shovel, the less likely ice will form
- Make arrangements for someone to take over while you are on vacation.

- If the sidewalk has not been cleared by the required time, the property owner will be issued a citation with a fine.
- Crews will remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk. Property owners will be billed for this service, and unpaid bills will be added to the owner's property tax.

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WNA Golf Benefit Wrap Up

The 3rd annual golf benefit for Westmorland was held on a glorious fall day on at Glenway. Turnout was down a bit this year on Sept. 17, but 30 friends and neighbors enjoyed a 9-hole round of golf and a great lunch catered by Bill Scheer's staff at Glenway. Golfers of all skill levels competed for lowest round in a scramble format and for several flag events such as closest to the pin and longest drive.



Thanks again to this year's sponsors: Regent Market Co-op, Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream, Village Bar, Glass Nickel Pizza, Stop and Go, Luigi's, Budd's Auto Repair. Please patronize these generous sponsors who donated prizes.

Proceeds from the event are used to benefit the programs of Westmorland Neighborhood Association. Contact Dave at 233-8455 if you're interested in helping to plan and grow the 2012 event or if you or your business is interested in sponsorship next year.

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Kudos

Many thanks to Jack Steinberg for the 18th year of the Halloween Haunted House Ghost Walk. It is a scary tradition that we all look forward to every year.



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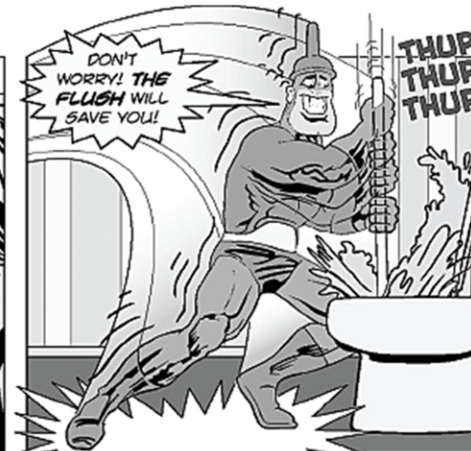
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Westmorland Real Estate Update



Compiled on 10-21-11 by Amy Onofrey, Coldwell Banker Success

Home Sales - 2009, 2010 and 2011

Westmorland homes are selling well this year. The data show sale to list price is 98.8% and average days on the market is only 26. Westmorland continues to be one of Madison's best home selling neighborhoods. For the first time since I've been tracking neighborhood sales (2007) the average sale price is above \$250,000. Fewer homes have been on the market this year than last year. The city of Madison's 2011 home sales will be on the assessor's web page in January so the next real estate report will include a full summary of 2011 home sales.

Market Absorption Trend - Buyers, Sellers or Balanced Market

One way to identify whether a location is in a buyers, sellers, or balanced market is determining how many months of home supply is on the market in a given time frame. This is an estimate of how many months it will take to sell current inventory assuming no new listings enter the market. Keep in mind that our market is seasonal, peaking in the spring and summer. Real estate professionals use these guidelines nationally: more than 6 months is a buyers market, less than 6 months is a sellers market, 6 months is a balanced market.

Midvale Heights, Sunset and Westmorland Solds	2009	2010	2011 Through 10/21
Number Sold	164	158	106
Avg List (asking) Price	\$248,493	\$258,805	268,588
Avg Sale Price	\$240,071	\$248,199	259,881
Sale Price / List Price	96.6%	96.0%	96.7%
Avg Days on the Market	57	61	63

Midvale Heights, Sunset and Westmorland	12 Months 10/21/10 10/21/11	6 Months 04/21/11 10/21/11	3 Months 07/21/11 10/21/11
# Homes Sold in Past X Months	129	60	18
Avg # Homes Sold per Month	11	10	6
Current # Homes on the Market	70	70	70
Months of Supply on the Market	6.5	7	11.6

Westmorland Solds	2009	2010	2011 Through 10/21
Number Sold	26	36	16
Avg List (asking) Price	\$248,738	\$253,095	253,946
Avg Sale Price	\$239,765	\$245,764	251,029
Sale Price / List Price	96.4%	97%	98.8%
Avg Days on the Market	48	37	26

Source: South Central Wisconsin Multiple Listing Service. Residential home sales only; condos and income properties are excluded. The City of Madison Assessor's web site was also used for Westmorland home sales information.

Westmorland # Sold by Price Range	2009	2010	2011 Through 10/21
Under \$199,999	3	4	1
\$200,000 to \$249,999	11	17	5
\$250,000 to \$299,999	10	12	9
\$300,000 to \$349,999	2	4	1
\$350,000 to \$399,999	0	0	0

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Neighborhood News



The 400 block of Caromar Drive welcomes new neighbors, Ramon Davis and Cheryl Loschko, at 442 Caromar Drive in August. Ramon is associated with the UW Hospital and Cheryl works at the UW Engineering Campus.

Mary and Joe Murphy long time residents at 576 Park Lane have moved and will be sadly missed by all neighbors on Park Lane.



WISH you were HERE



Submit neighborhood news items to bprkns@gmail.com




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The Madison Police Department recently offered these tips in response to rising rates of auto and home break-ins:

Staying safe at home:

- Lock your doors-many crimes we investigate are opportunistic
- Consider different lighting options around your home. Motion lights are a good deterrent.
- Keep your garage door closed-even when you are home!
- Engrave or mark desirable property with your driver's license number. Create a log of your property with serial numbers. This can be accomplished by taking photos or video of this property in your home.
- If you are going to be out of town-tell a friend or neighbor and ask them to look after the home for you (shovel snow, pick up mail, take out trash, etc). Also, consider putting some lights on timers.

Keeping your car and valuables safe:

- Keep your car locked when parked on the street or in your driveway.
- Keep your garage locked at night.
- Keep your windows closed and locked
- Do not leave valuables in plain view.
- Report suspicious persons in the neighborhood

looking into car windows or trying door handles.

- Form a neighborhood watch group
- Install motion detector lights
- Keep a file that lists the model or brand of your valuables including serial numbers

Remember - Any time you see anything that you think is suspicious or a crime in progress, don't hesitate to call 911. Never assume someone else will call.

There is also a Madison Police Dept. West District Listening Session scheduled for Nov. 9, 7-8:30 PM at Memorial High School. The District-wide session is designed to guide the development of plans for the District. They invite residents to attend to let them know about concerns and invite ideas for making the West District safer.



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Independent Lens Film Series at Sequoia Branch Library

We Are Still Here Âs Nutayuneân
 Saturday, November 19, 1:00 p.m.

Join us on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at the Sequoia Branch Library for the screening of an Independent Lens Film. November's film, *We Are Still Here Âs Nutayuneân* involves the Wamapnoag Indians, the tribe that save the Pilgrims from starvation, and lived to regret it. On Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, linguist Jane Little Doe is reviving the Wampanoag language more than a century after the last native speaker died. Rand Valentine, linguist in Native American languages will be with us for a discussion following the film.

Lioness

Saturday, December 17, 1:00 p.m.

How did five female Army support soldiers – mechanics, supply clerks and engineers – end up fighting alongside the Marines in some of the bloodiest counterinsurgency battles of the Iraq War? Directors Meg McLagan and Daria Sommers give an intimate look at war through the eyes of the first women in U.S. history sent into direct ground combat, despite a policy that bans them from doing so. Through harrowing personal stories, these women candidly share their experiences in Iraq as well as from their lives back home to form a portrait of the emotional and psychological effects of war.



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Eastside: Camelot Square
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 (608) 241-2747

Downtown: 468 State St.
 (608) 255-5454

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Calendar of Events In and Around Westmorland

Date	Event	Place/Time	Contact
Every 2 nd Tuesday	WNA Board Meetings	7:30-9:00 pm, location TBD	Any Board Member
November 30	Ice Rink Maintenance Program	Westmorland Park Shelter 6:30pm-8:00pm	Dave Blouin 233-8455, burroak15@charter.net
December 14	Santa Visits Westmorland	Please watch emails for details	Rita Mullen 298-7274, rita@mullen.be
January 22, 2012	Winter Play Date	Westmorland Park, time TBD	Dinean Thelan dineant@gmail.com
February 10, 2012	Wine and Cheese Party	Queen of Peace, 7pm-9pm	Betsy Hauser 236-4211, betsyhauser2206@yahoo.com

Please send calendar submissions to Barb Perkins, bprkns@gmail.com.

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Courier is Dec 14.

To advertise in *The Westmorland Courier*, please contact Dave Blouin, 233-8455 or burroak15@charter.net. To view the current ad rate sheet, visit westmorland-neighborhood.net and click on Contact Us.

Please direct newsletter editorial submissions to: *The Westmorland Courier*
 c/o Barb Perkins
 442 Toepfer Ave.
 Madison, WI 53711
 442-5558 or
bprkns@gmail.com



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Dave Blouin	Member	233-8455, burroak15@charter.net

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Wine and Cheese Party Coordinator	Betsy Hauser betsyhauser2206@yahoo.com	236-4211